

NOTICE TO FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES RECIPIENTS

Effective October 1, 2016

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued the annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) to Food and Nutrition Services benefits effective October 1, 2016. The Food and Nutrition Services Program maximum gross and net income limits, excess shelter expense deduction, utility deduction, and the standard deduction for households will change. These changes may or may not increase the monthly benefit amount households receive in October 2016.

You have the right to a fair hearing of your case if you do not agree with our decision. You can request a fair hearing by letting your local Food and Nutrition Services office or county department of social services know of your request. You may request the hearing in person, by telephone, or in writing. The hearing may be requested by any member of your Food and Nutrition Services unit or by your representative, including an attorney obtained at your own expense. Free legal advice may be available. Contact your nearest Legal Services Office.

You have 90 calendar days from the date of this notice to ask for a hearing. Unless you ask for a hearing by 12/30/2016, you cannot have one.

To find out what your benefits are, call Customer Service at 1-888-622-7328 on the day you normally receive benefits.

If you have any other questions about these changes, contact your local Food and Nutrition Services office at the local Department of Social Services.